Saving Fairbury's Historic Marsh Park

By

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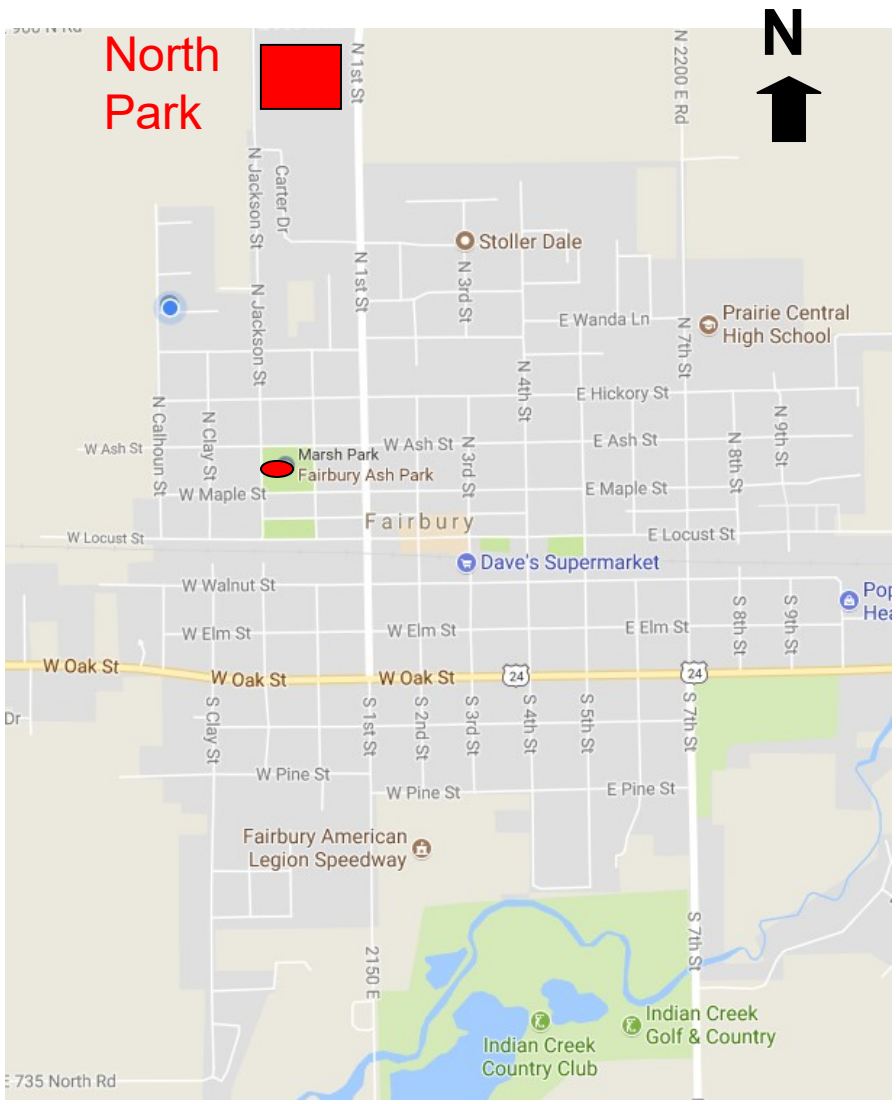
Fairbury Improvement Group

October 2017



Marsh Park

Fairbury

Project Background

- ✓Most of the focus in recent years has been North Park
- ✓Marsh Park has been slowly decaying for many years
- ✓(3) Pavilions were built back in 1957
- ✓Last major improvement was basketball court in the 1990's
- ✓Restroom has not been open in 4 years
  - -over 90 years old
  - -not ADA compliant
  - -"If you don't have a good restroom, you don't have a park"
- ✓Idea was suggested to renovate Marsh Park as part of the Fairbury Improvement Group
  - -Received support for the idea to upgrade the park from the City of Fairbury and Prairie Lands Foundation

Design Process

North Park Positives
-Lots of sidewalk
-Screened-in pavilion
-Playground equip in 1 Mulched Area
-Nice, modern restroom
-Outdoor swimming pool is main attraction
-Park benches
-Sidewalk lighting
-Drinking fountain

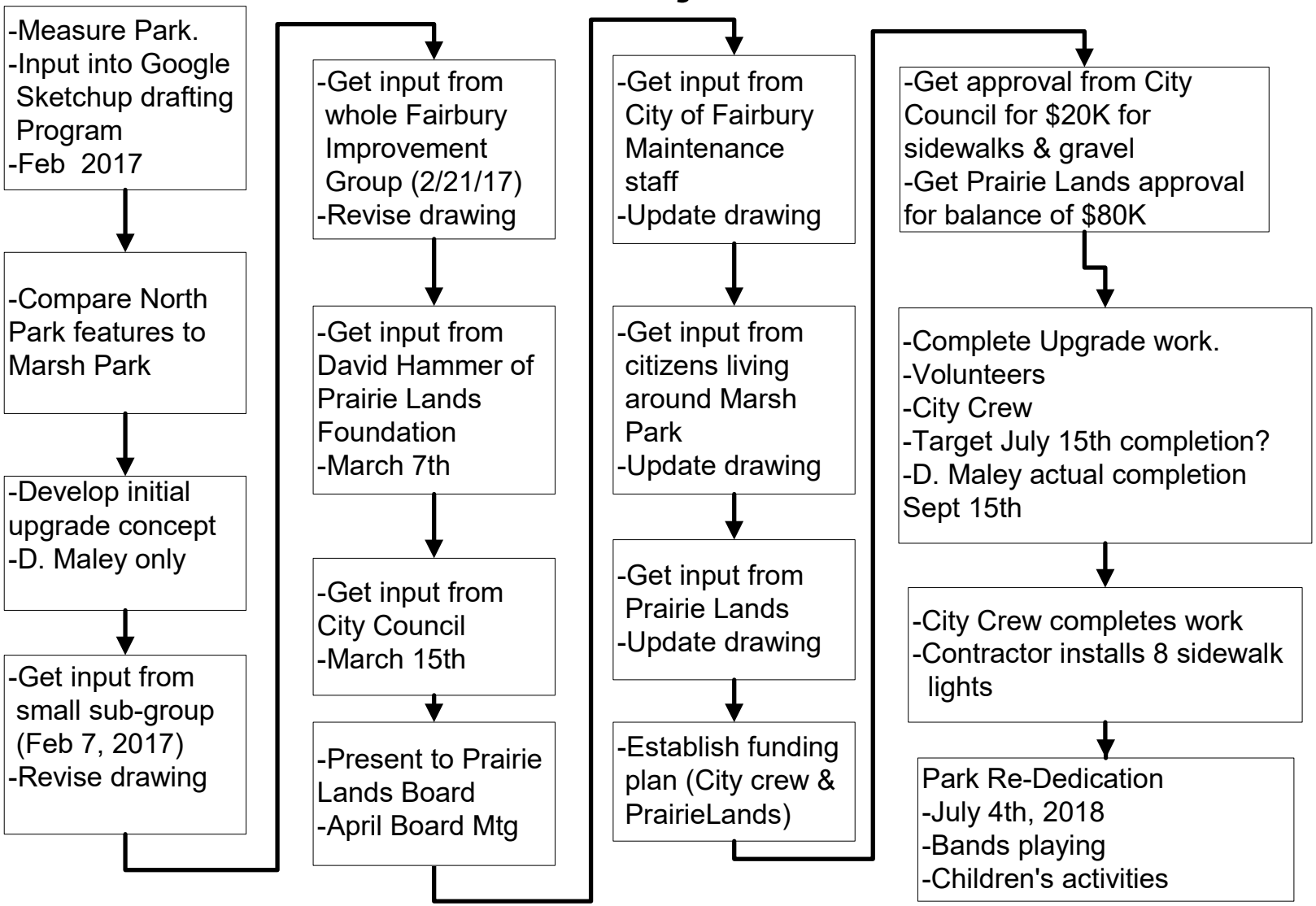
Central Park Positives
-5 Historic Murals
-20 foot diameter gazebo

Metamora Park Positives
-Simple bandstand design

Strength of Fairbury City Crew
-Concrete work

Marsh Park Design
-Add 1,100 ft. of sidewalk
-Screen-in N. Pavilion
-Consolidate playground equip in 1 Mulched Area
-Upgrade 90+ year old restroom to ADA requirements
-Add 22 foot diameter Victorian Gazebo as main attraction
-Add 7 Park benches
-Add 8 sidewalk lights
-Add ADA drinking fountain
-Add 2 historic murals
-Add scaled down Metamora style band stand
-Add colors to the Park
-Add new Welcome sign
-Paint old playground equipment
-Add new playground equipment

Project Plan



Vandalism

- Park has 50+ year history of vandalism
  - -Plugged toilets using sand
  - -Graffiti
  - -Broken pole lights using basketball
  - -Pushing out screens in North Park
  - -Beating on steel restroom doors

- Tried to design everything as vandal-proof as possible
  - -removed sandboxes
  - -more robust screen design
  - -all steel doors
  - -re-using 1957 steel playground equipment
  - -steel park benches
  - -protective covers on lights

- Adding 3-4 video cameras to the park
  - -connected to Police Department

Physical Work Completed at the Park (Oct)

✓Replaced missing roof on 1-picnic table shelter in SE Corner

✓Replaced rotted facia board on South Shelter

✓Replaced worn out Welcome Sign

✓Restroom Refurbishment

-Re-shingled restroom roof
-Gutted old restrooms
-City crew ran new 1” water supply and new sewe
-New underground plumbing by Popejoys
-New concrete floors by City crew
-New ½” plywood painted ceiling
-New electrical power feed and breaker box
-Doors enlarged to 36” for ADA compliance
-New above-ground plumbing by Popejoys
-New plastic sheeting for walls
-New exhaust fan and LED lighting
-New ADA drinking fountain by Popejoys

Physical Work Completed at the Park (Oct)

- ✓City crew cut down 3 dead trees
- ✓City crew removed old drinking fountain area
- ✓New band stand completed
- ✓New 22 foot diameter Gazebo completed
- ✓South and West Pavilions repainted
- ✓Playground equipment repainted
- ✓Basketball poles/hoops repainted
- ✓North Pavilion screened in and winterized
- ✓7 Park Benches Added
- ✓8 Sidewalk lights in-process
- ✓Common mulched area for playground equipment in-process
- ✓Re-seed entire park in-process

Design Work Status

✓Park Over-All design drawing
-Updated as project evolved

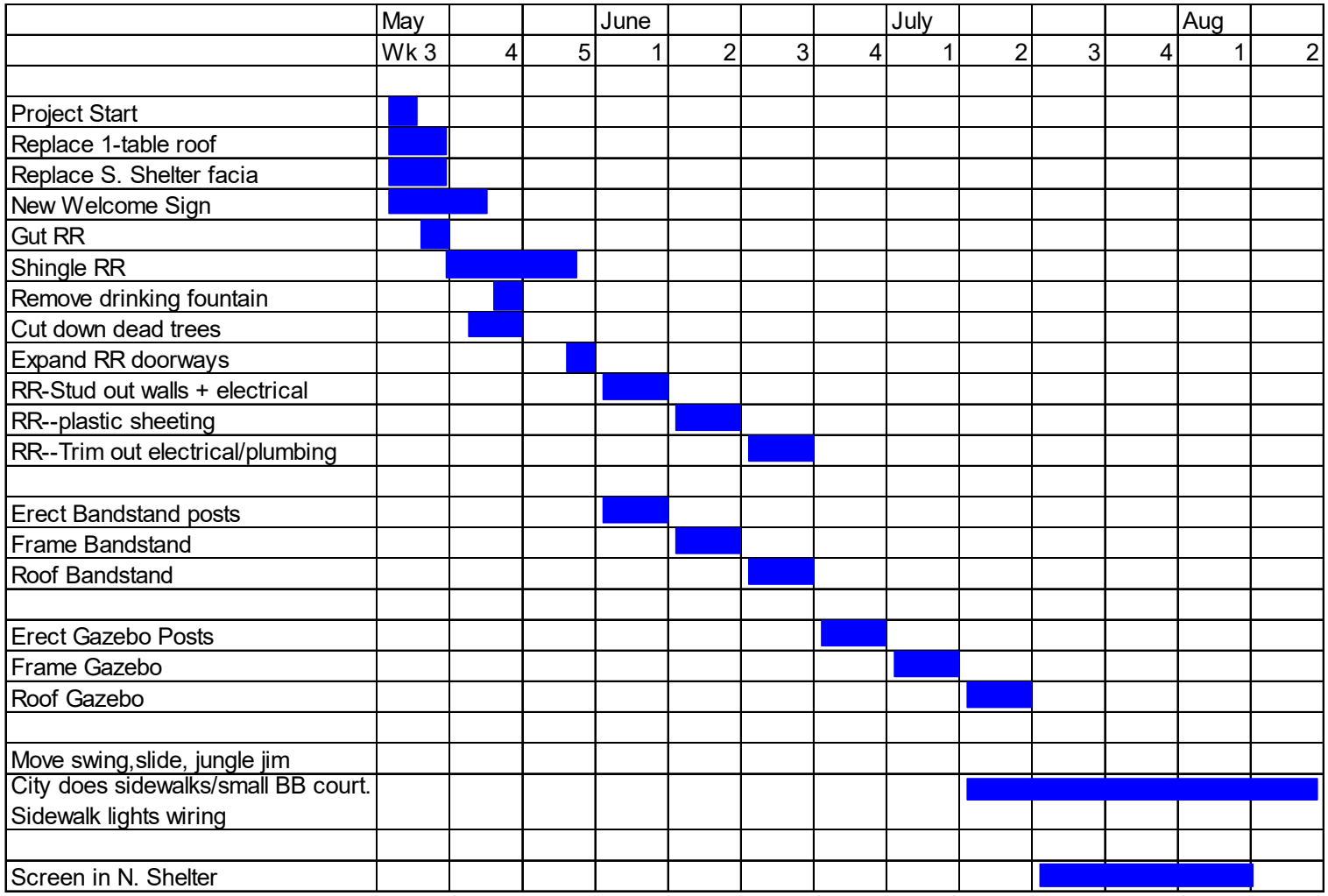
✓Restroom Upgrade drawing
-Used with City crew, plumbers, electricians, plastic wall sheeting supplier, ADA compliance

✓New Band Stand

✓New Gazebo

✓Screening North shelter
-Concept sketch completed, same as North Park
-”Field Build” using the concept
-larger mesh screen than North Park
-no exhaust fans
-no ceiling

Project Schedule



Unexpected Items

1. **JULIE**
   -below ground electrical is City, not power company
   -City does have meter to track buried lines
   -impacted location of new Gazebo

2. **New sewer line to restroom**
   -Restroom still on a septic tank
   -Septic tank was collapsing
   -City ran new sewer line

3. **Steep learning curve required for ADA regulations**
   -23 pages double-sided just for restroom checklist

4. **Steel versus Wood Doors**
   -Wood doors, make hole in wall, buy door, install it
   -Steel doors, buy door, make wall around it

5. **Nostalgia about park and the playground equipment**
   -Many visitors who stop and see me at the park
   -want to bring grandchildren to play on the same equipment
   -Facebook people very excited about the project

Unexpected Items

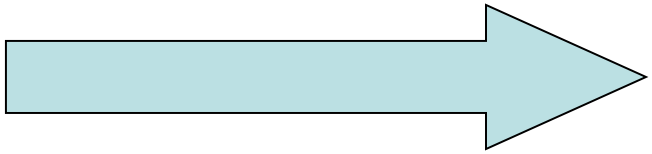
6. **Screen Design & Build**
   -28 new 48x48 inch screens
   -found North Park design not optimal
   -developed more robust design for Marsh Park

7. **Three Steel Doors on Screening in North Pavilion**
   -took 6 versus 3 weeks to obtain them
   -built 1 side of wood wall before doors arrived
   -left other side of wood wall “open”
   -was able to “build the wall around the door frame”
   -worked very well

8. **Assembly of Gazebo Roof Segments**
   -lower segments 300 lbs each
   -assembled about 14 feet in the air
   -last piece of 8 piece pie must fit together
   -left lower segment 1/16” to 1/8” shorter than design
   -fit together perfectly ☺

Fundraising

1. City of Fairbury - $20,000 for sidewalks/gravel
2. Prairie Lands Foundation - $80,000 for balance of project
3. Odd Fellows
   -have applied for a $39,000 grant for new playground equipment
   -Bill Cox – President……..helped dig holes and set posts for band stand
4. Rotarians
   -3 members painted the pavilions
5. Livingston County Realtors
   -Gave us grant for $2,500 for the historic murals & 1 park bench
6. Used Social Media to request contributions



Fairbury, Illinois- Today, Long Ago and Somewhere In between

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Secret Group

Discussion

Members

Events

Videos

Photos

Files

Search this group

Shortcuts

Fairbury Improvement G...

Fairbury, Illinois- Today, ...

Fairbury-Cropsey High S..

Dale Maley
June 4 at 11:38am

The Marsh Park upgrade project is being funded by Prairie Lands Foundation and the City of Fairbury. If you would like to donate to the Prairie Lands Foundation to help support the Marsh Park upgrade project, you can mail a check to:

Prairie Lands Foundation
104 E. Locust
P.O. Box 260
Fairbury, Illinois 61739

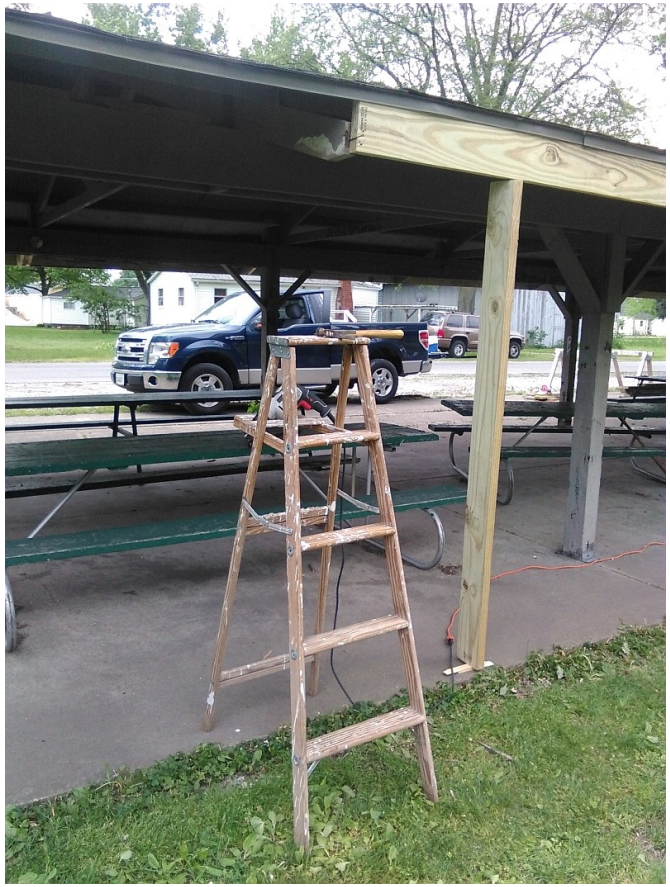
Prairie Lands is a 501C3 non-profit organization, so your donations can be tax deductible.

Thanks!

New Shelter Roof

May 15th Project start date

South Shelter Facia Board

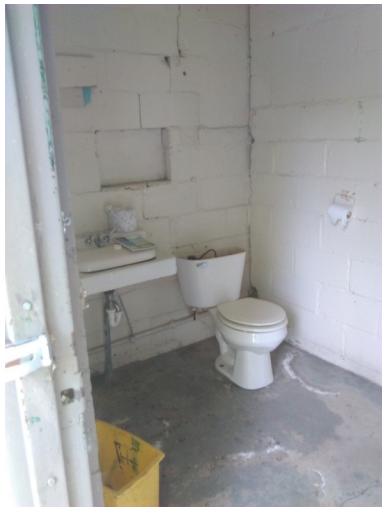


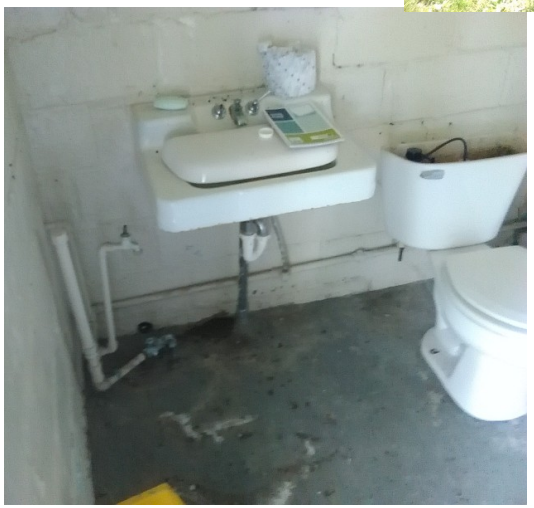
New Welcome Sign

Before

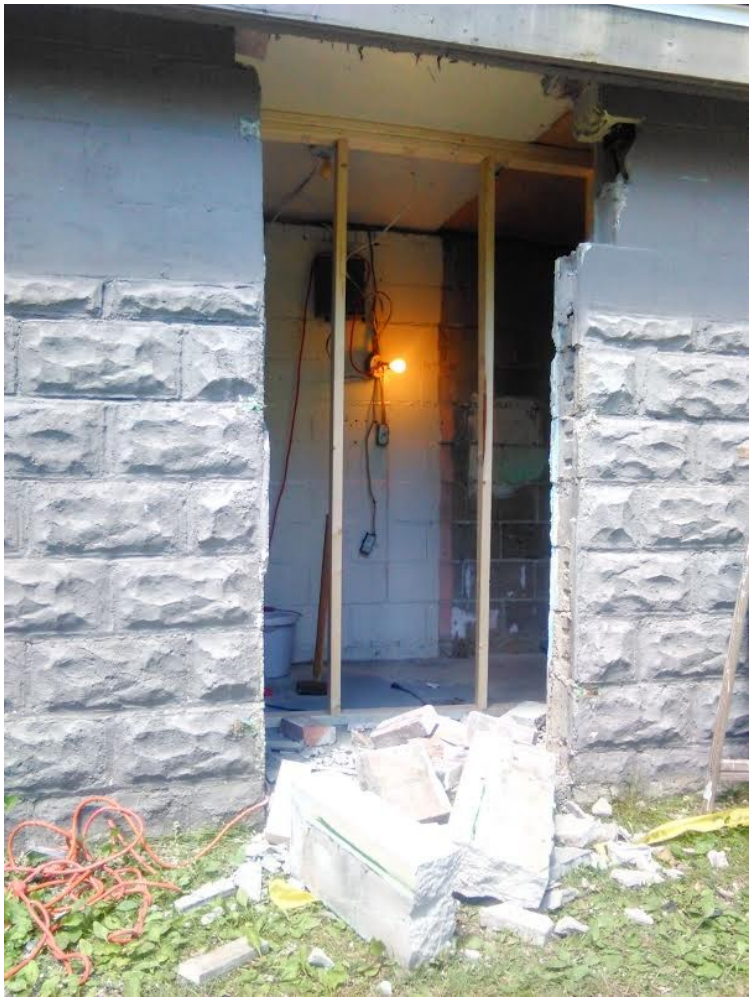
After

Restroom Renovation





36 Inch Door Frames



New Restroom Roof

Fairbury's Marsh Park project begins

▲ HIDE CAPTION

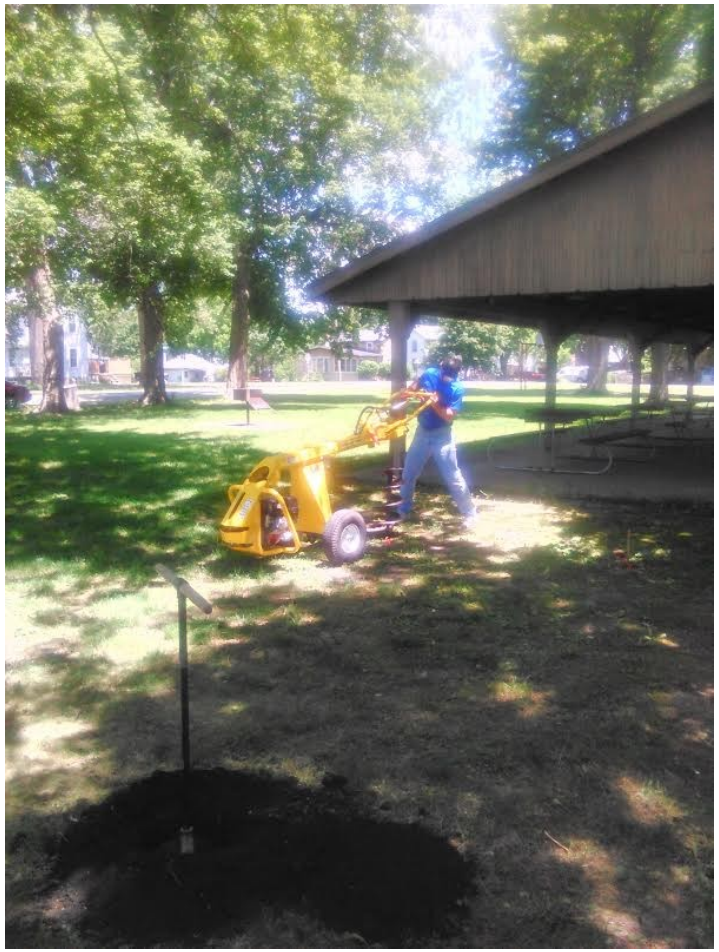
Fairbury Improvement Group member Dale Maley recently began work on the restoration of Fairbury's first park, Marsh Park. His first project is to restore the park's bathroom facility, starting with the roof. - Luke Smucker

Restroom Roof

Remarkably good shape after 90+ Years ☺

Just about done shingling

New Band Stand



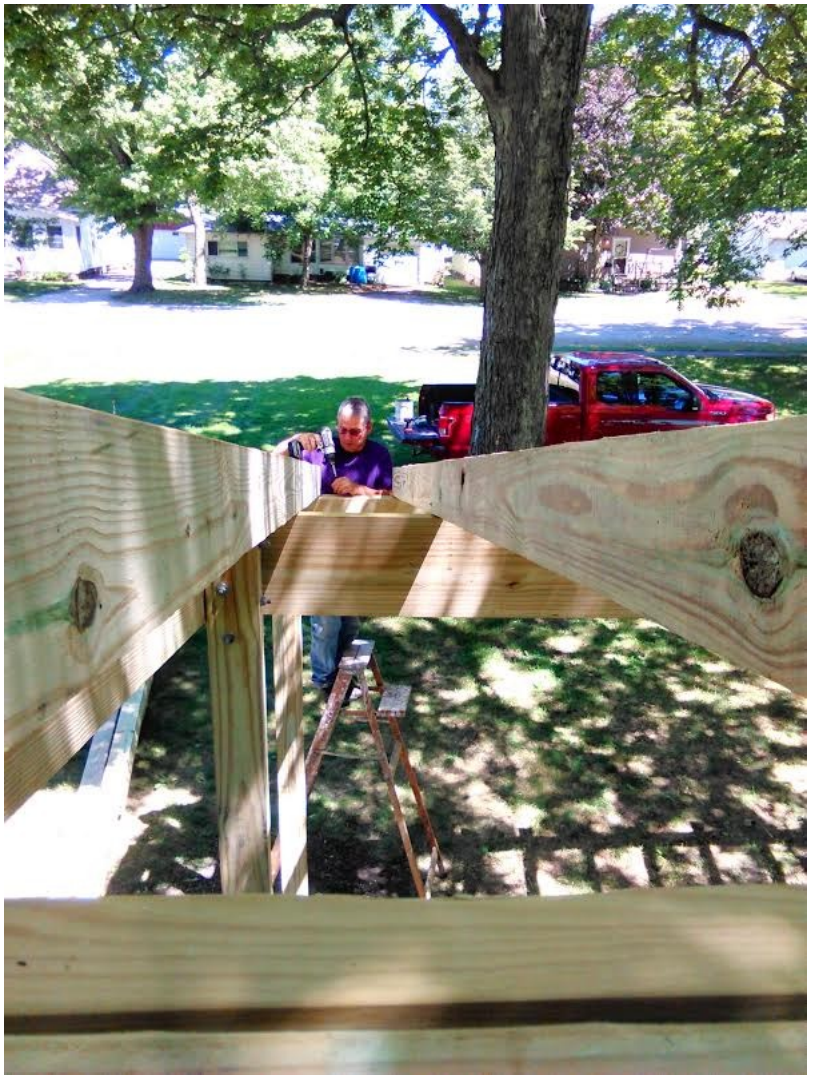
Bill Cox-- “Ace Man running Ace post-hole digger” ☺

Brad & Dale Maley

New Band Stand

New Band Stand

New Band Stand



New Band Stand

New Band Stand – Completed 6/9/17

Band Stand built in only 4.5 Days

New Underground Plumbing for Restroom

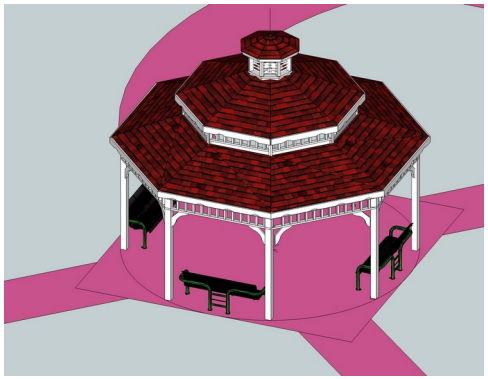
New Underground Plumbing for Restroom

Park Color Scheme

Dark Brown – Main Color of Buildings
Light Tan – Trim accent
Dark Red - Posts

John Tollensdorf
-3rd generation paint expert
-developed color scheme options
-ACE Hardware - Fairbury

Gazebo



A “Walk-Through” Design with 4 park benches

Gazebo

-Build 1st segment
-Build fixture around the 1st segment
-Build segments 2-7 using fixture

Gazebo

No…….I am not building bed frames ☺

Gazebo

All 8 big roof segments installed in only 3.5 hours!

Gazebo

Dennis Helmers, Brad Maley, Dale Maley, Wayne Varner, Steve Endres

Gazebo

8 Upper Roof segments built in Assembly Fixture

Gazebo

1st upper roof segment installed

Gazebo

Gazebo

Cupola is next ☺

Gazebo

Gazebo

Driving the last nail in the Cupola

Gazebo

Gazebo

July 17th

New Paint for Playground Equipment

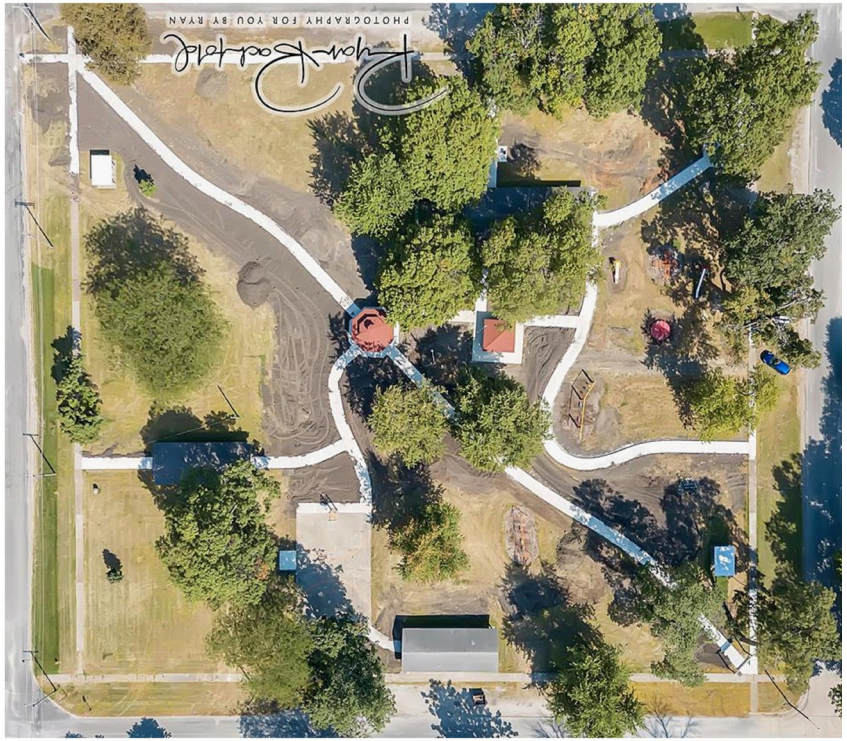
Marsh Park Drone Aerial View Sep 2017

Marsh Park

North

Before 2017 Upgrade

North



After 2017 Upgrade

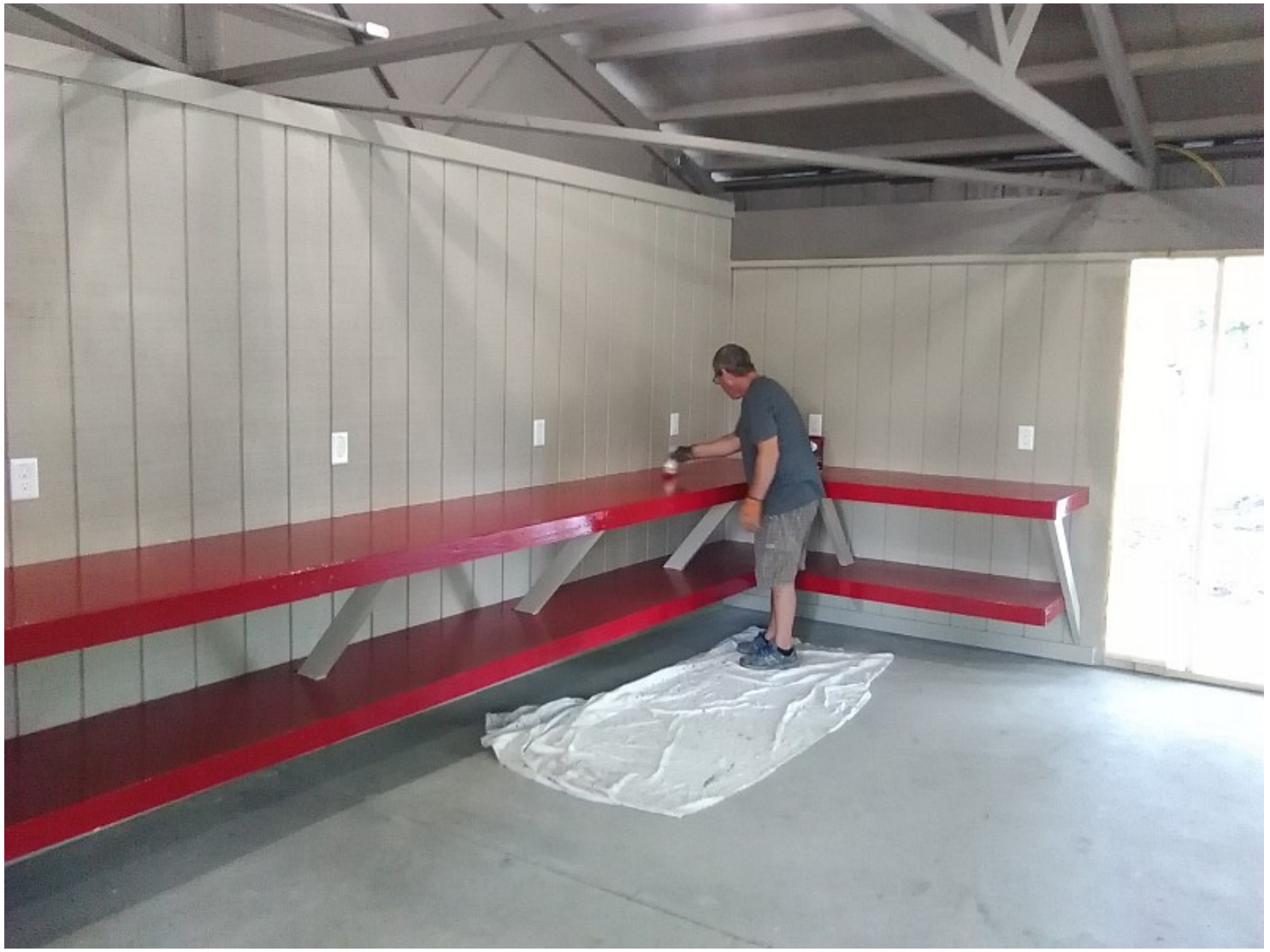
90+ Year Old Restroom Upgrade

Gazebo with 4 Park Benches

Finished Band Stand

Screening-In North Pavilion

Double-Shelves and Outlets



Building 28 Screens

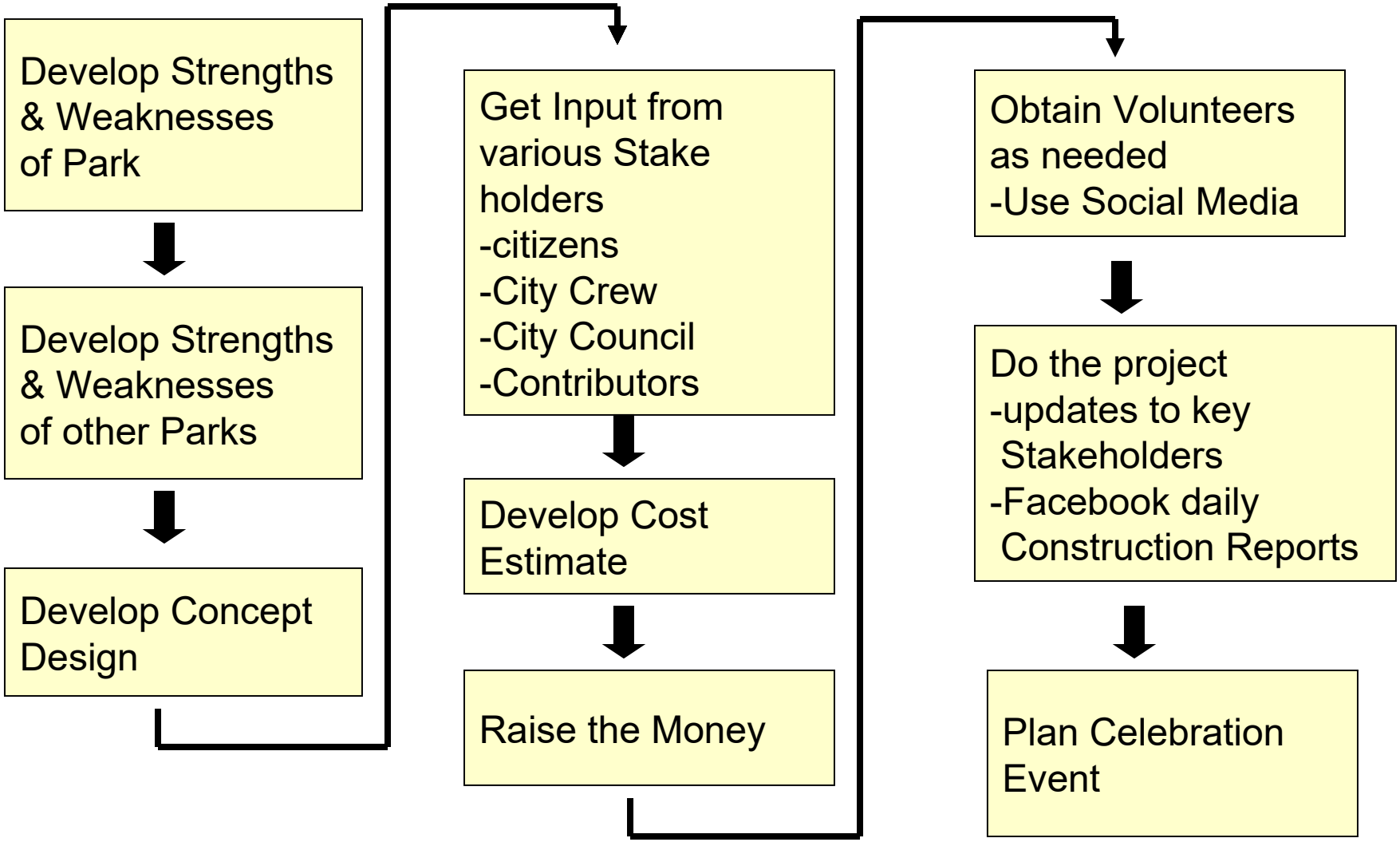
Marsh Park North Pavilion

Before

After

2 Historic Murals

Suggested Park Design Process



July 4th, 2018

You are all invited to the Re-Dedication event

The End

Questions?